

## MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Twenty-five Years Ago column; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the twentieth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

### NEWS

**San Francisco Meeting Place of American College of Physicians.**—Following a conference of the local arrangements committee of the American College of Physicians here, with the president of the organization in attendance, announcement was made by Dr. William Kerr, general chairman, that final plans have been approved for the sixteenth annual clinical meeting of the college, which is to be held in San Francisco, April 4 to 8, 1932.

The American College of Physicians is the largest society of physicians in America, and has approximately 3000 fellows and associate members. At the last meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, the attendance of members and guests totaled about 4000.

Doctor Kerr, who is professor of medicine at the University of California Medical School, welcomed the arrangements committee at the University Hospital. Dr. S. Marx White, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota, and president of the college, came west especially to attend the conference.

Members of the committee on arrangements are: Dr. F. M. Pottenger, head of the Pottenger Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Monrovia, and president-elect of the college; Dr. Noble Wiley Jones, clinical professor of medicine at the University of Oregon, and regent of the college; Dr. Arthur Bloomfield, professor of medicine at Stanford Medical School; Dr. Walter M. Boardman, associate professor of medicine at Stanford Medical School; Dr. Russell V. Lee of Palo Alto; and four members of the University of California staff in addition to Doctor Kerr: Dr. Leroy H. Briggs, clinical professor; Dr. Ernest H. Falconer, clinical professor; Dr. H. Lissner, clinical professor, and governor of the northern California section of the College of Physicians; and Dr. C. L. A. Schmidt, professor of biochemistry.

**Health Information on Radio.**—The San Diego County Medical Society, under the auspices of the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, has instituted a series of weekly health talks over station KFSD. These talks are being given every Wednesday morning from 10:15 to 10:30 and cover medical subjects of interest to the public generally. This educational program of the San Diego Society is being well received by the listeners within the range of the powerful local station. The program and manuscripts to be used are prepared and arranged in advance and cover the weekly broadcast periods until July 1, 1932.

**Scripps Metabolic Clinic Lectures.**—Dr. Llewellys F. Barker of Baltimore will deliver the annual Scripps Clinic lectures on January 7, 8 and 9, 1932. These lectures are given through the Scripps Clinic Lectureship Endowment for the members of the San Diego Medical Society. The clinics will be presented in the form of afternoon bedside clinics.

**Officers for the Heart Committee.**—At the annual meeting of the San Francisco Heart Committee, which was held at the San Francisco County Medical Society auditorium on Thursday, November 19, 1931, the following officers were elected: Arthur Bloomfield, chairman; Gordon E. Hein, vice-chairman; Major W. C. Munly, secretary; J. Marion Read, assistant secretary.

### New Publication on Coccidioidal Granuloma.

Coccidioidal granuloma has been a subject of study in California for the past forty years. Since 1928, when the disease was made reportable by the California State Board of Public Health, greater opportunities for research have been provided. A special bulletin which covers the work of the staff in the study of this disease together with historical material, reports of investigations, case reports and bibliography, has been issued by the State Board of Public Health.

Dr. Emmet Rixford, Emeritus Professor of Surgery of Stanford University School of Medicine, contributes an article upon the history of coccidioidal granuloma in California. Doctor Rixford was the first to discover the causative organism in California. Dr. Ernest C. Dickson, professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine of Stanford University School of Medicine, contributes an article which covers more recent investigations. The bulletin consists of forty-three pages, together with a table outlining 256 case histories. It is illustrated with two maps showing the distribution of the disease in California and six half-tone illustrations. Copies of this bulletin, known as "Special Bulletin No. 57 Coccidioidal Granuloma," may be obtained by applying to the Director of the California State Department of Public Health, Sacramento.

### American Board for Ophthalmic Examinations.

The American Board for Ophthalmic Examinations will hold an examination in New Orleans on Monday, May 9, 1932, at the time of the meeting of the American Medical Association.

Necessary applications for this examination can be procured from the secretary, Dr. William H. Wilder, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, and should be sent to him at least sixty days before the date of the examination.

### In Whom Is Ownership of X-Ray Plates Vested?

An interesting item concerning ownership and right of possession of roentgenograms was printed in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* of November 21, 1931. Because ownership and right of possession are questions that again and again come to the front in both hospital and private practice, the item is here reprinted. It reads as follows:

"The question whether the roentgenograms of a hospital patient belong to the patient or to the hospital was answered by a court for the first time, so far as is known, in *Hurley Hospital vs. Gage*," decided on appeal April 21 by the circuit court for the county of Genesee, Michigan. The patient had been roentgenographed in the roentgenographic department of the Hurley Hospital at Flint. The usual charge for the service was included in the patient's bill. He made a payment on account, but refused to pay the charge for the roentgenographic service unless the roentgenograms were delivered to him. The hospital refused to deliver them and sued the patient for the balance due. In the justice's court, where the suit was instituted, judgment was given against the hospital. The hospital, however, because of the principle involved, appealed to the circuit court of Genesee County. At the hearing on the appeal, no one appeared on behalf of the patient and the case was heard and judgment rendered without the submission of evidence or argument by him. In giving judgment, the court pointed out that the hospital sold and patients paid for, not the material that went into roentgenograms, but knowledge and experience. The protection of the hospital might depend largely on the proper preservation of the roentgenograms and, said the court, the films should remain in the hospital. Judgment was given against the patient for the balance due on his bill, covering the amount charged by the hospital for the roentgenograms."

Apropos of the above it may be stated that at the September meeting of the Council of the California

Medical Association this question was discussed at some length. Doctor Ullmann of Santa Barbara spoke of a card which he had used, and which had been found very useful.

The language on this card is being studied with an idea of making suggestions both to hospitals and physicians to adopt similar placards in connection with roentgenograms made for patients.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Subject of the Following Letter: Notification of Loss of Diploma

California Medical Association,  
450 Sutter Street,  
San Francisco, California.

Gentlemen:

I wish to report the loss of my medical diploma from Vanderbilt University, class of June 1915, with endorsement thereon showing licensed in Alabama, and registered in Probate Court, Birmingham, Jefferson County. This diploma was contained in a grip stolen from my automobile.

Also, the original notice of State Board of Medical Examiners was lost, which stated having passed the State Board.

If it is possible, I wish you would in some manner insert this in an issue of your journal, as I wish to avoid the use of these papers by an imposter.

Thanking you for this kindness,

Gratefully yours,

O. M. SPENCER, M. D.,  
*Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.*

## COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATIONS

### Comments on Excerpts From the Political Code of California

In the editorial section of this number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are printed some comments on the affiliations and consolidations of city and county health departments. The following excerpts from a report discussing the state laws in relation to such consolidations indicate how such consolidations may be brought about.

Provision for consolidation of certain functions of the city government of Los Angeles City with appropriate functions of the county government are as follows (Charter of the city of Los Angeles):

"Section 2 (t)—to transfer or consolidate functions of the city government to or with appropriate functions of the state or county government, or to make use of such functions of the state or county government, and in the case of any such transfer or consolidation the provisions of this charter providing for the function of the city government so transferred or consolidated shall be deemed suspended during the continuation of such transfer or consolidation, to the extent that such suspension is made necessary or convenient by said transfer or consolidation and is set forth in the ordinance establishing such transfer or consolidation, and any such transfer or consolidation may be repealed by ordinance, which repeal will terminate the suspension of the provisions of the charter hereinabove provided for;"

Various city governments have been effecting the transfer of health functions to the county health officer since 1919 until now there are thirty-six cities working under agreement with the Board of Supervisors. This is provided for in Section 4225a, Political Code, 1919 enactment, as follows:

"The board of supervisors of any county wherein a county health officer has been appointed under the provisions of section four thousand and two hundred twenty-five of the Political Code shall have power to contract with any incorporated city or town or chartered city within such county, and such incorporated city, town or chartered city therein, through its board of trustees, council or other legislative body, shall have power to contract with such county for the performance by health officers or other employees of health departments of any or all functions relating to public health. Whenever such contract has been duly entered into, the county health officer and his deputies shall thereupon exercise the same powers and duties within such city or town or chartered

city as are conferred upon health officers thereof by state law and local ordinance within such city or county. In any such contract the city, town or chartered city shall have power and authority to provide for the payment by such incorporated city or town or chartered city, to the county of such consideration as may be agreed upon, the same to be paid to the county treasurer of the county.

"Said contracts may further provide for the care and support, including medical attendance, of indigent sick, and for compensation therefor."

It is therefore plain that a City Council may by ordinance transfer the functions relating to public health to a County Board of Supervisors and that a County Board of Supervisors may enter into a contract for the payment by a city located within the boundaries of the county of such sums as may be agreed upon for such services.

## CALIFORNIA NURSES ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS

### Recommendations Regarding Notification of Service Rules

At a meeting of the board of directors of the California Nurses' Association, held on November 7, 1931, the following resolutions were adopted:

#### Resolution

Whereas, An unprecedented situation in nursing has been created by the world-wide economic stress of the past two years whereby many people have been unable to pay for nursing service either in the hospital or in their homes; and

Whereas, Nurses in large numbers are unable to obtain employment and thereby unable to perform the nursing service for which they have been fitted; and

Whereas, The proportion of nurses in private nursing exceeds greatly the demands for private nurses; and

Whereas, The number of students in accredited schools of nursing are even in excess of the number of the previous year; now therefore be it

Resolved, That we recommend to each district of the California State Nurses' Association that a study shall be made by a special committee composed of physicians, nurses, and lay people of the community to ascertain the conditions of nursing service within the district to the end that means may be established to adequately care for the sick, both in the hospital and in the home, according to the capacity of the sick to pay for this service.

Resolved, We further recommend that nurses will individually consider the situation and in cases where need is evident will in all tolerance seek to supply this need for nursing service at a charge that is compatible with fairness to the sick and to themselves. We have in mind the ability of the patient to pay a reasonable sum, the necessary financial support of the nurse and the encouragement of the nurse to use her own judgment.

Resolved, We further recommend to nurses that they will avoid registering against any special type of cases; that they make a study of the real cause of such practice to determine if it may be removed by further preparation.

Resolved, We further recommend that nurses will consider the type and degree of nursing required in the hospital and the home and the arrangements that may be made as to rest and schedule of hours, doing all in their power to meet the need in each case as an individual matter.

Moved Further, That a request be made to have these resolutions published in California and Western Medicine.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO\*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Volume V, No. 1, January 1907

From some editorial notes:

*Fifth Volume.*—The present number begins the fifth volume of the State Journal. It is somewhat less bulky than the January number of a year ago, for the reason that we have not recovered from the crippling catastrophe of last April; but during the year we trust that conditions will so materially improve that the additional number of reading pages may be added. However, if we are not quite so comfortably situated as we were a year ago, we have at least as much con-

\* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.